UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/590,437	08/23/2006	Arnd Paulsen	PD040024	8679

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EXAMINER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/590,437	PAULSEN, ARND
	Examiner	Art Unit
	MICHAEL FIALKOWSKI	2419

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *15 April 2009*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-5,7,9,11 and 12* is/are pending in the application.

   4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-5,7,9,11 and 12* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *15 April 2009* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

   Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

   Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

   a)☒ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
      Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
      Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This office action is in response to amendments filed April 15, 2009. Claims 1-5,

7,9,11, and 12 are pending with claims 6,8, and 10 canceled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2.   Claims 1-3,7,9,11,12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by

Fujita et al (2001/0024240).

Re claim 1, Fujita et al discloses a method for controlling a device (via a matrix

controller ([0233]) for the distribution of audio, video, data or control signals, (audio or

video signals [0709]) with the device having at least one switching matrix (matrix

switch), which has a number of inputs and a number of outputs (for example, 10 [0223])

as well as a corresponding number of coupling points (intersection switches, See

Figure 3 and [0223]) for production of links between the inputs and outputs, with the

method comprising the following steps:

(a) selection of coupling points which are required for a signal path between an input

and an output (operate as to only select a video input, for each video output [0223]);

(b) connection of the coupling points selected in step (a) in order to produce the signal

path (turn on the intersections for the signals, in order to supply an input to output

[0223]) ; and

(c) locking of the coupling points in the connected state in step (b) (for example, stores

connection information for the matrix switches [0670]);

(d) combining and jointly locking two or more signal paths to form a jointly locked signal

path bundle (for example, operator console is set corresponding to output channels

112,113,and 114 [0381]-[0384]) (and assignment storing means stores the assignments

to the operator consoles and functions [0381][0407]); and

(e) preventing an unlocking of any one of the two or more signal paths that form the

jointly locked signal path bundle (for example, matrix control console can be password

protected or require the use of a card [0485-0486][0491-0492]).

Re claim 2, Fujita et al discloses the method wherein the coupling points are

successively locked in the signal flow direction (intersections are set for the matrix

based on the instruction from an input and stored in a table [0316]-[0317], See also

[0663]).

Re claim 3, Fujita et al discloses the method wherein the coupling points are

locked in the opposite direction to the signal flow direction (input is received first from

the output side of the matrix, and then an input side of the matrix is determined [0342],

See Also [0661]).

Re claim 7, Fujita et al discloses the method wherein the combining and jointly

locking two or more signal paths to form a jointly locked signal path is carried out by

entry of input (for example, operator consoles) or outputs (for example, units or

functions) for respective signal paths in a list (assignment storing means stores the

assignments to the operator consoles and functions [0381][0407]).

Re claim 9, Fujita et al discloses the method wherein the jointly locked signal

path bundle is cancelled by deletion of all the inputs and outputs from the list (in the

initial state, all intersections are initialized to an OFF state [0315], as well as operator

console column is empty [0324]).

Re claim 11, Fujita et al discloses the method wherein an attempt to unlock a

locked signal path which is part of a path bundle initiates the indication of a warning

message (execution of erroneous settings is refused or a warning is given against the

erroneous settings [0744]).

Re claim 12, Fujita et al discloses a storage medium (ROM/RAM) in which a

program code is stored which can be stored in the program memory of a data

processing system (board computer [0717]) and causes a program to be run ([0728])

which carries out the method steps as claimed in claim 1 (See also [0317]).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4.   Claims 4-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Fujita et al.

Re claim 4, Fujita et al discloses the method as claimed in claim 2 as stated

above, and further wherein the coupling points(intersections) are unlocked (it is possible

to store the settings for part of the intersections and reset part of the intersections

[0265]). Fujita et al does not explicitly disclose unlocking in the signal flow direction.

However Fujita et al teaches of locking the coupling points in the signal flow direction

(intersections are set for the matrix based on the instruction from an input and stored in

a table [0316]-[0317], See also [0663]). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary

skill at the time of the invention in the area of matrix switching in a video environment to

unlock the coupling points in the opposite direction to the signal flow direction in the

method of Fujita et al, with the motivation to unlock the points in the same manner as

they were locked.

Re claim 5, Fujita et al discloses the method as claimed in claim 2 as stated

above, and further wherein the coupling points are unlocked (it is possible to store the

settings for part of the intersections and reset part of the intersections [0265]). Fujita et

al does not explicitly disclose the coupling points being successively unlocked or.

However Fujita et al teaches of successively (repeated for number of inputs [0343])

locking coupling points in the opposite direction to the signal flow direction (input is

received first from the output side of the matrix, and then an input side of the matrix is

determined [0342], See Also [0661]). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill

at the time of the invention in the area of matrix switching in a video environment to

unlock the coupling points in the opposite direction to the signal flow direction in the method of Fujita et al, with the motivation to unlock the points in the same manner as they were locked.

Response to Arguments

5.   Applicant's arguments filed April 15, 2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

With regard to Claim 1, Applicants have asserted that Fujita fails to disclose anything concerning combining and jointly locking two or more signal paths to form a jointly locked signal path bundle and preventing an unlocking of any one of the two or more signal paths that form the jointly locked signal path bundle which are recited in amended claim 1 as limitations (d) and (e). Examiner respectfully disagrees.

Taking into account the Applicant's lexicon and definitions in Claim 1 and dependent claim 7, Fujita discloses limitation (d) of Claim 1. For example, Claim 7 recites in part,

"wherein the combining and jointly locking two or more signal paths to form a jointly locked signal path is carried out by entry of input or outputs for respective signal paths in a list".

Therefore, if this limitation is taught by Fujita in Claim 7, then the narrower in scope dependence also teaches limitation (d) of Claim 1.

As discussed earlier, Fujita discloses the process "carried out by" entry of input (for example, operator consoles) or outputs (for example, units or functions) for

respective signal paths in a list (assignment storing means stores the assignments to

the operator consoles and functions [0381][0407]). As pictured in Figure 64, the

operator consoles and units are respective inputs/outputs. The separate units can be

"assigned" or bundled and output as seen in Figure 66 and are stored in a list as in the

form of an assignment storing means.

Fujita also discloses limitation (e) which merely calls for the prevention of

"unlocking of any one of the two or more signal paths that form the jointly locked signal

path bundle" In Fujita, this is accomplished by means of a password protection or

requiring the use of a card [0485-0486][0491-0492]) to prevent access to the matrix

console which stores the matrix settings (for example, [0247]).

Therefore, Fujita discloses all limitations of amended Claim 1.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time

policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHAEL FIALKOWSKI whose telephone number is (571)270-5425. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9:30am-7pm EST, alternating Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel Ryman can be reached on (571)272-3152. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/M. F./
Examiner, Art Unit 2419

/Daniel J. Ryman/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2419